

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02068 120626Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 /072 W

-----130615Z 044340 /12

R 112105Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7331

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2068

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: THE "NEW REPUBLIC" VESCO/FIGUERES/ODUBER IMBROGLIO

REF: SAN JOSE 2043

1. SUMMARY: JOSE FIGUERES DENIES CALLING COSTA RICANS COWARDS BUT DOES NOT REFUTE VESCO-CAMPAIGN FINANCING CHARGES. PLN AND ODUBER ADMINISTRATION TRY TO IMPUGN FIGUERES'S MOTIVES ; THUS SACRIFICING PARTY PATRIARCH IN ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THEIR POLITICAL LOSSES. OPPOSITION IS ENJOYING PLN'S PUBLIC DISCOMFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SHORT LETTER TO NEW REPUBLIC RELEASED MAY 10, JOSE FIGUERES COMMENTS ON ARTICLE THAT IS CAUSE OF CURRENT FUROR BY CLARIFYING THAT HE DID NOT CALL COSTA RICANS "COWARDS" POINTEDLY, HOWEVER, FIGUERES DID NOT CHALLENGE THE ACCURACY OF ANY OTHER QUOTATIONS OR REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN ARTICLE ABOUT VESCO, CIA, ETC. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02068 120626Z

3. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT FILCRRES, IRKED BY THE LACK OF SUPPORT HE IS RECEIVING, HAS DECIDED TO STAND BY HIS DECLARATIONS AND MADE NO FURTHER RETRACTIONS. FIGUERES' CRONY AND EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE ALPIZAR TOLD "LA REPUBLICA" MAY 10 THAT "DON PEPE SPOKE VERY SERIOUSLY IN REFERENCE TO VESCO'S MONEY AND IN HIS OTHER DECLARA-

TIONS; THEY WERE NOT SAID IN JEST."

4. THE PLN AND ODUBER ADMINISTRATION INCREASINGLY APPEAR INTENT ON SACRIFICING AND ABANDONING FIGUERES IN AN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HIS REVELATIONS. THEIR STRATEGY--TO CAST DOUBT ON FIGUERES' MOTIVES, ONE EXAMPLE IS THE CONTENT AND THRUST OF DANIEL ODUBER'S LETTER TO NEW REPUBLIC (SEPTEL). IN ANOTHER, THE PLN YOUTH ORGANIZATION RELEASED A PRESS STATEMENT MAY 10 DECLARING THAT "IT APPEARS SUSPICIOUS TO US THAT EX-PRESIDENT FIGUERES IS TRYING TO SMEAR THE LIBERATION PARTY AT THE TIME IT (PLN) IS CLEARLY INDICATING IT IS CLEANSING ITSELF OF MORAL DECAY AND RETURNING TO ITS ORIGINAL ROOTS."

5. IN A CAREFULLY WORDED, GENERAL STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 11, THE PLN POLITICAL COMMITTEE COMPLETELY REJECTED HAVING ANY RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER WITH VESCO. IT ADDED THAT "HIS (VESCO'S) PRESENCE HERE HAS SMEARED THE GOOD NAME OF COSTA RICA AND DAMAGED THE IMAGE OF THE FIGHTER FOR DEMOCRACY, JOSE FIGUAE." LESS STRIDENT THAN THE ODUBER LETTER, IT NEVERTHELESS ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE THE PARTY FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT. THE PLN LEGISLATIVE CONTINGENT ANNOUNCED MAY 10 IT WOULD MEET IN PERMANENT SESSION TO ANALYZE DON PEPE'S REMARKS.

6. POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND MEDIA ARE HIGHLIGHTING ODUBER ADMISSION OF VESCO-RELATED FINANCING IN 74 CAMPAIGN. ALSO, THE OPPOSITION IS CLEARLY PLEASED TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 02068 120626Z

SEE PLN LEADERS BICKERING IN PUBLIC AND IS CONTENT TO WATCH THE PLN TRY AND FREE ITSELF FROM THE QUAGMIRE. INCREASED COMMENTARY FROM THE MEDIA AND OPPOSITION CAN BE EXPECTED.
KILDAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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